

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated September 22, 2004. Claims 1 to 5, 9 to 25, 40, 44 and 59 to 64 remain in the application, with Claims 6 to 8, 26 to 39, 41 to 43 and 45 to 58 having been cancelled. Claims 1, 17, 21, 25, 40, 44, 59, 63 and 64 are the independent claims herein. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

The abstract was objected to for an informality. A new abstract has been provided as recited above. Therefore, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 9, 11 to 14, 16 to 18, 20 to 22, 24 to 33, 35 to 38, 40 to 41, 43 to 52, 54 to 57, 59 to 60 and 62 to 64 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,438,574 (Nagashima), and Claims 10, 19, 23, 34, 42, 53 and 61 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Nagashima. The rejections are respectfully traversed and the Examiner is requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in light of the following comments.

Initially, with regard to the rejections under § 103(a), Applicant notes that Nagashima qualifies as prior art to the subject application *only* under § 102(e). Additionally, Nagashima and the present application were, at the time of the invention, subject to an obligation of common ownership. In this regard, Nagashima is, as shown on its cover page, assigned to Canon Kabushiki Kaisha and the present application has also been assigned to Canon Kabushiki Kaisha as evidenced by an assignment recorded on December 21, 2001 at Reel 012406, Frame 0785. Thus, under § 103(c), the U.S. patent to Nagashima cannot be applied as a reference in a rejection under § 103(a). Accordingly, the § 103(a) rejections are traversed on this basis, as well as the bases set forth below.

Turning now to the substance of the § 102 and § 103 rejections, the present invention concerns managing address information for transmitting data to a destination. According to one aspect of the invention, ID information is determined for each user and address location information is associated with the ID information, wherein the address location information indicates a location that stores address information for designating the destination to transmit the data. When a user inputs ID information, the address location information is specified based on the input ID information, communication with an external apparatus via a network is performed based on the address location information, and the address information residing at the external apparatus corresponding to the location specified by the address location information is obtained. Then, the data is transmitted to the destination designated from the address information. As a result, address information of a user can be managed in a single external device that can be accessed by multiple devices when data is to be transmitted.

With specific reference to the claims, amended independent Claim 1 is a communication apparatus, comprising a communication unit, adapted to transmit data to a designated destination, a management unit, adapted to manage ID information determined for each user and address location information associated with the ID information, wherein the address location information indicates a location that stores address information for designating the destination to transmit the data by the communication unit, an input unit with which the user inputs the ID information, and an obtaining unit, adapted to specify the address location information managed by the management unit based on the input ID information, communicate with an external apparatus via a network based on the address location information, and obtain the address information residing at the external apparatus

corresponding to the location specified by the address location information, wherein the communication unit transmits the data to the destination designated from the address information obtained by the obtaining unit.

Amended independent Claims 25, 44 and 63 are method, program and computer-readable medium claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 1.

Amended independent Claim 17 includes similar features, but is directed more specifically to the device that stores the address information. Therefore, Claim 17 is a communication apparatus capable of communicating with an external apparatus via a network, comprising a communication unit adapted to transmit data to a designated destination, a management unit adapted to manage address information for designating the destination to transmit the data by the communication unit, a reception unit, adapted to receive, from the external apparatus via the network, a request to obtain the address information managed by the management unit, and a transfer unit adapted to transfer the address information to the external apparatus, which has requested the address information, based on the request.

Amended independent Claim 21 is an apparatus claim along the lines of Claim 17, and Claims 40, 59 and 64 are method, program and computer-readable medium claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 17.

The applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of the present invention, and in particular, is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of managing ID information determined for each user and address location information associated with the ID information, wherein the address location information indicates a location that stores address information for designating a destination to transmit data, and

specifying the managed address location information managed based on input ID information, communicating with an external apparatus via a network based on the address location information, and obtaining the address information residing at the external apparatus corresponding to the location specified by the address location information.

Nagashima merely discloses that a fax address and a mail address are stored together with an ID code in an ID card, and data associated with the ID code, the fax address and the like are displayed by inserting the ID card. However, the fax address and the mail address in Nagashima are not the destination to which the data is transmitted, but rather, are the matters which have been received by the fax address and the mail address. (See, for example, column 6, line 43 to column 7, line 50.) Accordingly, Nagashima is not believed to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of managing ID information determined for each user and address location information associated with the ID information, wherein the address location information indicates a location that stores address information for designating a destination to transmit data, and specifying the managed address location information managed based on input ID information, communicating with an external apparatus via a network based on the address location information, and obtaining the address information residing at the external apparatus corresponding to the location specified by the address location information.

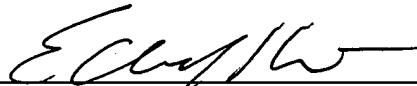
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all of Claims 1 to 5, 9 to 25, 40, 44 and 59 to 64 are believed to be allowable.

As a formal matter, Applicant notes that the Office Action did not include an indication acknowledging the claim to foreign priority or receipt of the certified copies

of the priority documents. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to provide such an acknowledgment in the next communication.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Edward A. Kmett', written over a horizontal line.

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